



STAR GROUP NEWSLETTER

No 1

Our Group is now going from strength to strength.

Building on David Highley's talk last month regarding the geological problems of the British Army in France during WW1 we had a superb talk given by Brian Fernley on Monday 2nd September entitled "*From Alexander the Great to the Mobile Phone.*" It traced the history of communication methods throughout the past centuries. From smoke signals through early telegraph and telephone systems to the IT, Internet, TV and Mobile phones of today.

It was a light-hearted view of how telecommunications have developed and even included a fun quiz.

Next month, on Monday 7th October, we are looking forward to Graham Payne leading us through the murky world of "*Juicy Germs and Disgusting Diseases*"

On Thursday October 17th we will link up with other members of the U3A and set out on our first Site Visit. We are going to **Jodrell Bank** to learn about how Britain lead the race in Radio Astronomy and have an opportunity to see the famous Radio Telescope.

The observatory was established in 1945 by **Sir Bernard Lovell**, a radio astronomer at the University of Manchester who wanted to investigate cosmic rays after his work on radar during the Second World War.

If anyone wants to go on this visit and has not yet bought their voucher there are still a small number left (at the time of writing) and you can get them from either Ros Jones 937-5359 or Chris Mason 846-0821.

In November we look forward to Barry Hull telling us about ***"The Ten Maddest Inventions"***.

In December we have a real Christmas Present for you. Dr Tim Pharoah of BGS, will be talking to us about Shale Gas Extraction in his talk entitled ***"Shale Gas – a new Bonanza?!"***

I am sure that this will be of particular interest in view of the planned activities in Widmerpool.

NOTE:

At the end of Brian Fernley's Presentation he made reference to two books that he thought some of us might find of interest. The references are:-

"Vintage Telephones of the World" by P J Povey & R A J Earl –

ISBN 086341 140 1

"Semiconductors and the Information Revolution" by John Orton -

ISBN 978 0 444 53240 4

SITE VISIT TO JODRELL BANK

The STAR Group will be going on their first Site Visit on Thursday 17th October. We are going to Jodrell Bank and (at the time of writing) there are still a few vouchers available for this trip at a cost of £20 each. This includes coach fare, Group Entrance to the facility and a talk to be given by a member of Jodrell Bank Staff.

Invitations have now been extended to Members of the U3A who are not part of the STAR Group. If you would like to go on this trip please contact either **Ros Jones on 937-5359 or Chris Mason on 846-0821.**

September 2nd 2013